

Officer Involved Shooting; October 24, 2015

On October 24, 2015 at 10:49PM, Cathedral City Police Dispatch received a 911 regarding a domestic battery at 68200 33rd Avenue. The victim stated her boyfriend, Dominic Hutchinson (30), struck her in the face with a phone and smoking marijuana.

At 10:51PM, Cathedral City Police Officers, Jeffrey Blachley (32) and Alan Lemus (30) were assigned to the call and responded to the location. While responding to the location, CCPD dispatch provided an update indicating they heard what sounded like an ongoing physical altercation over the line. At 10:57PM, both Officer Blachley and Lemus arrived at the location.

When officers arrived, they knocked on the door and began hearing screaming from within the residence. Officers then heard a male yelling, "I have a gun. I have a gun." Officers backed away from the door and broadcast a subject had a gun. Hutchinson exited the residence through the front door holding a black cylindrical object (broken binocular lens cylinder) and pointed the object at the officers in a shooting stance. As Officer Blachley and Lemus were retreating from the door, they fired their handguns, striking Hutchinson multiple times.

Officer Lemus broadcast an officer involved shooting had occurred and requested paramedics respond. Cathedral City Fire Paramedics arrived and pronounced Hutchinson deceased.

The Riverside County Sheriff's Department, Central Homicide Unit was called to handle the criminal investigation. During the investigation it was learned Hutchinson had called his parents prior to officers arriving. During the calls he stated his intention to have officers shoot him, indicating he wanted to commit "suicide by cop." At the conclusion of the investigation it was turned over to the Riverside County District Attorney's Office who determined Officers Blachley and Lemus acted in self-defense and ruled the shooting justified.

An internal review found no violations of department policy and noted the incident fell within proper procedures.

At the time of this incident, Officer Blachley had been a peace officer for 2 years. Officer Lemus had also been employed as a peace officer for 2 years.

CASE# 1510C-5569 Video Records: No Audio: Yes Case Closed: October 7, 2016

https://www.desertsun.com/story/news/crime_courts/2016/11/09/cathedral-city-police-shooting/93556858/

Officer Involved Shooting; April 8, 2018

On April 8, 2018 at 6:22AM, Cathedral City Police Dispatch received a 911 call regarding a domestic battery at 33510 Wishing Well Trail #3. The victim indicated her boyfriend, Carlos Santiago Urias (24) had punched her several times in the stomach.

At 6:25AM, Patrol officers along with Sergeant Andrew Diaz (47) were assigned to the call and responded to the location. At 6:33AM, officers arrived on scene and approached the residence. While officers were approaching the residence, the victim told dispatch Santiago Urias was armed with a gun and along with the victim, was the victim's son and other family members. Dispatch reestablished phone contact with the victim and requested she exit the residence.

After a few minutes, the victim met with officers and began providing details of what occurred. She indicated during the early morning, Santiago Urias battered her and pointed the gun at her. While speaking with officers, Santiago Urias exited the residence brandishing a black handgun. Santiago Urias was ordered numerous times, both in English and Spanish to drop the gun but he refused. Santiago Urias raised the gun in the direction of officers, that's when Sergeant Diaz fired one round from his handgun, striking Santiago Urias in his chest.

Cathedral City Fire Paramedics arrived and began treating Santiago Urias for his injury. He was transported to Desert Regional Medical Center in Palm Springs, where he was pronounced deceased.

The Riverside County Sheriff's Department, Central Homicide Unit was called to handle the criminal investigation. During the investigation, it was revealed the gun Santiago Urias possessed was a replica Sig Saur, semi-automatic handgun. At the conclusion of the investigation it was submitted and reviewed by the Riverside County District Attorney's Office who determined Sergeant Diaz acted in self-defense and ruled the shooting justified.

An internal review found no violations of department policy and noted the incident fell within proper procedures.

At the time of the incident, Sergeant Diaz had been a peace officer for 23 years.

CASE:1804C-1712 Video Records: Yes Audio: Yes (within video) Case Closed: Still Open

https://www.desertsun.com/story/news/crime_courts/2018/04/08/one-dead-one-injured-following-officer-involved-shooting-cathedral-city/497664002/